

This image was generated from digital data bases of land and sea-floor elevations on a 2-minute latitude/longitude grid (1 minute of latitude = 1 nautical mile, or 1.853 km). Assumed illumination is from the west; shading is computed as a function of the east-west slope of the surface with a nonlinear exaggeration favoring low-relief areas. A Mercator projection was used for the world image, which spans 390° of longitude from 270° West around the world eastward to 120° East; latitude coverage is ±80°. The resolution of the gridded data varies from true 2-minute for the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Ocean floors and all land masses to 5 minutes for the Arctic Ocean floor. Major data sources are as follows: for Ocean Areas between 72° latitude, bathymetry is derived from satellite altimetry of the sea surface; poleward of 72° data are from the U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office. Land Topography is primarily from various sources collected and gridded at 30" resolution by the National Imagery and Mapping Agency, U.S. Department of Defense.

SURFACE OF THE EARTH

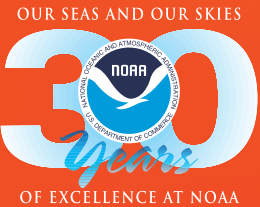
A Computer-Generated Image of Color-Shaded Relief
Scale: 1:40,000,000 at Equator, Mercator (on Sphere) Projection
Coverage: 80° North - 80° South Latitude, 270° West - 120° East Longitude

Digital image by Dr. Peter W. Sloss, NOAA/NGDC
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